

stop refusing to provide hardworking families like the Ramirezes with any tax relief whatsoever.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the motion to instruct conferees on the child tax credit. Let us for once show families like the Ramirezes that they matter to this country just as much as the millionaire families do.

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

What I would say to the gentleman from California who just spoke is a couple of points. The child credit actually, we phase out for upper-income individuals.

□ 0230

In fact, families that have children that are above a certain income threshold do not qualify. Their children do not qualify. I think what is interesting in all of this debate is night after night when we debate this motion to instruct and we talk about trying to provide for the children that we are only talking about some of the children; that is, children of the successful families do not qualify. But that is neither here nor there, but I wanted to set the record straight that as she talks about tax cuts for the wealthy regarding a child credit, those successful families do not qualify for the child credit.

What I would say to the gentleman, too, who just spoke regarding the Ramirez family and the teacher and mechanic with children, under existing law, and again this is sort of back of the envelope calculations, but under existing law, as I understand it, the Ramirez family already is entitled to the refundable child credit; in fact, a family with children whose annual income from salaries and wages is roughly \$25,000. Their Federal income tax liability before the child credit is roughly \$885. Their tax liability after the child credit is zero. In fact, with the refundable child credit, they get an additional \$565, and part of that of course is refundable. The total check from the United States Treasury to the family like the Ramirez family is roughly, again back of the envelope calculation, \$2,282. That is an income supplement that goes to good hard-working families like the Ramirez family as described by the previous speaker. So I think that they are already benefiting from actions of Congress, specifically the refundable child credit from 2001.

Again, I would just sum up, Mr. Speaker, and say that the Democratic motion to instruct actually allows the child credit to drop from \$1,000 to \$700 after the 2004 election. As a result, millions of low- and middle-income families will get under their motion a smaller child credit. The House-passed bill H.R. 1308 ensures that the child credit remains at this \$1,000 level that we have decided to be appropriate throughout the decade. Again good policy now, good policy next year, good policy 5 or 7 or 8 years down the road. The Democratic motion to instruct should fail because it does not elimi-

nate the marriage penalty in the child credit until the year 2010 and even then just for a year. So again under their motion millions of children will be denied the child credit because their parents are married. What signal are we sending across the country that we say that again if they do the right thing, work hard, play by the rules, and then choose to raise their family within the institution of marriage but it is going to cost them on their bottom line under the Democratic motion that they do not get this refundability if, in fact, they choose marriage as the course for their family?

The House-passed bill benefits middle-income families, married families, by eliminating the child credit immediately for married couples.

I did want to point out because I know it has been referenced on a couple of occasions the House-passed bill does not deny child credit to military families. Military families, including those that are deployed abroad, are already receiving a refundable credit and will continue to receive a refundable credit under the House-passed bill.

So I think, again, H.R. 1308, which has passed this House, is far superior than the Senate version. So I would urge a no vote on the motion to instruct. In Washington, DC, Mr. Speaker, pessimists are seldom prophets. I happen to believe in the best nature of this institution as well as our counterparts on the other side of the Capitol. I happen to believe that we will be able to find a good workable compromise for all children of working families. So I would urge a no vote on the motion to instruct.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The hour is late; so let me say two quick points. One, as a clarification, the House-passed bill does, in fact, deny the child tax credit to military families in combat zones. And, secondly, let me say that if the majority party were as serious about providing this credit to these needy families as they profess to be, then we would be passing the Senate bill now. We can get this done before we go home on Friday or Saturday or whenever it is we are going to go home. It has already passed the Senate 94 to two. It is fair. It provides an immediate benefit, and it does not worsen an already staggering deficit situation for this country that imperils our ability to provide the kinds of services that our people in this country need and deserve out into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYES). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct

offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

□ 0245

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2765, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-230) on the resolution (H. Res. 334) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2765) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2427, PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET ACCESS ACT OF 2003

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-231) on the resolution (H. Res. 335) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2427) to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to promulgate regulations for the reimportation of prescription drugs, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2210, SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2003

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-232) on the resolution (H. Res. 336) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2210) to reauthorize the Head Start Act to improve the school readiness of disadvantaged children, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

TRIBUTE TO JOE D. GUNN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute of Joe D. Gunn, the President of the AFL-CIO in Texas. I offer praise and thanks to him for his more than 40 years of service as a labor leader.

Joe Gunn has been a dedicated labor leader for the workers of Texas, and his example and influence have had ripple effects across the country. He is a hard working and fair man, with an effervescent slogan, "Dignity for Workers—A right, not a privilege! I could not agree with him more.

Joe operates with the character of someone who learned hard work, honesty, integrity, justice and compassion at an early age. He was the youngest of eight children born to Clarence and Mary Gunn in the small town of Leona, Texas. The he moved to Houston, the city we both call home. At the age of 16, he began working for Southwestern Bell to help support his family.

In 1961, Joe's labor movement career began when he was elected Steward for a one-year term, Chief Steward for six months, 2nd Vice President for six months, and then to the position of President of CWA Local 6222 in June 1962. His quick rise up the leadership ladder exemplifies his talent and ability. It also demonstrates his joy for serving the people. Joe served the CWA for over a decade, during which the CWA became a large extended family. That union family worked to advance workers' rights and to strengthen the community.

Although Joe is a Texan, he has used his gifts for the benefit of Texans and non-Texans alike. In fact, while with the CWA, he served on the bargaining committee for three contracts representing a five-state area. Moreover, the CWA local 6222 tripled in size during Joe's tenures. He conducted several strikes in CWA and was known for successfully using many different tactics to establish the public's awareness of the unfair treatment of the CWA telephone workers. Joe was hailed as one of the leaders of the "Texas Labor Management Conference," as unions worked to strengthen their companies while demanding fairness for the workers.

Joe was an unopposed candidate from the time he assumed the presidency in 1962 until he left CWA Local 6222 in 1973. At that time, he was with the Texas Employment Commission, the predecessor to the Texas Workforce Commission, as a representative of workers. That was the first time a union representative had ever held office in TEC. He remained well regarded during his time with the TEC. The hierarchy of TEC even termed one of Joe's craftier policies, "The Gunn Rule," which is still in effect today.

In 1979, Joe was elected by the Texas AFL-CIO Executive Board to the position of Secretary-Treasurer, where he served for a decade. Joe then became President of the Texas AFL-CIO in 1989 without opposition. He was unopposed in each succeeding election, which he credits to members working together as a team.

Joe's tenure as President of the Texas AFL-CIO came at a difficult time for organized labor in the Untied States. National membership in labor

unions, as a percentage of the workforce, fell dramatically, a carryover that first accelerated during the Reagan presidency. Unfortunately, employers poured unprecedented sums into political, legislative and public relations efforts to defeat union organizations.

It is a tribute to Joe Gunn's leadership that the state Federation in Texas has maintained a solid membership base during his tenure. While union membership has fluctuated with the economy, Joe emphasized recruiting and keeping unions within the State federation.

During Joe's tenure, the Texas AFL-CIO helped lead the way in many achievements: raising the state minimum wage to the Federal level in 2001, winning consultation rights, helping defeat private school vouchers with the Texas Federation of Teachers, and improving pensions for the Fire Fighters and other public employees. That is quite a list of accomplishments and there are many others attributable to Joe's leadership. I simply do not have the time to list them all.

In 1995, Joe stood tall in denouncing then governor Bush for breaking promises his office had made to labor unions in exchanges for labor's support on key legislation involving the State's workforce. Joe Gunn was the first Democrat in Texas to point out, on a regular basis, the negative consequences that Bush's policies held for working people. Now, the Nation is witness to the negative consequences of the President's policies. Therefore, Joe continues the fight.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, when asked to characterize his most notable accomplishments, Joe's answer is always the same: "Maintaining dignity for workers, public respect for good craftsmanship, and dedication to fair employers." Joe has always advocated a good day's work for a good day's pay. He has only asked for fair treatment of working families. And he continues to insist that workers be treated with dignity. Because of his commitment, his consistency, his faith, his heart, his leadership, and his strength, I pay tribute to Joe D. Gunn. On behalf of the 18th District of Texas, on behalf of the entire State, I thank him and honor him.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PASTOR (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 6:15 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of a grave illness in the family.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today from 11:00 a.m. on account of participating in activities relating to the official State holiday of Utah.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legis-

lative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BISHOP of New York) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. CASE, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. BALDWIN, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 74. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Nevada, to the Secretary of the Interior, in trust for the Washoe Indian Tribe of Nevada and California.

H.R. 255. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to grant an easement to facilitate access to the Lewis and Clark Interpretative Center in Nebraska City, Nebraska.

H.R. 1577. An act to designate the visitor center in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona as the "Kris Eggle Visitor Center", and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1280. An act to amend the PROTECT Act to clarify certain volunteer liability.

S. 1399. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 South Vine Street in Glenwood, Iowa, as the "William J. Scherle Post Office Building".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until today, Thursday, July 24, 2003, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3378. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Establishment of Safeguards and Procedures for Suspension of Packing Holidays [Docket No. FV03-925-2 FIR] received July 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.